

In the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho

IN RE: MEMBERSHIP OF
THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE

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ORDER

Idaho Code § 32-1403 states:

“...The committee shall recommend, for adoption by the supreme court, policies and procedures that will carry out the purposes of this chapter.”

The charge to the Children and Families in the Courts Committee is as follows:

1. To implement a coordinated family court services plan for a comprehensive response that addresses the needs of children and family members who are faced with one or more court actions involving family issues such as divorce, child support, child custody and visitation disputes, domestic violence, child protection/foster care, and juvenile correction proceedings.
2. To develop innovative case management practices designed to promote an efficient use of family and court resources. The Committee shall investigate an expansion of non-adversarial alternative dispute procedures that assist in resolving high conflict family issues that are damaging to children, supervised child visitation when certain risk factors are present, and the adoption of pilot projects that promote timely and effective resolution of related disputes in court cases involving children and families. The plan also includes the use of family court coordinators and court assistance officers.
3. To coordinate with judicial district planning efforts and other Idaho Supreme Court Committees having an impact on children and families.
4. To examine and consider long-term funding strategies to permit development and implementation of family services and justice planning activities. This includes examining grants for family service projects, potential increases in state funding, co-funding between participating agencies, fee-based income for services and consideration of current resources and potential for redistribution.
5. To consider program development, resource development, technical assistance and training capacity (multi-disciplinary institute) for the development and sharing of best practices.
6. To develop evaluative measures and standards for the coordinated family court services plan and family justice system.
7. To coordinate with and develop partnerships with education, executive and legislative branches of government, and in this capacity, act as a clearinghouse for all matters pertaining to children and families in the courts.
8. To recommend policies and procedures for adoption by the Idaho Supreme Court that will carry out the charge of the Committee.
9. To provide bench guide updates and develop forms and protocols in relation to all aspects of family law, child protection proceedings, juvenile justice and other legal actions affecting children.

The Court, being advised that a request has been made for adjustments to the Committee roster;

The following changes are made to the Committee membership:

Committee members that shall be released from the duties associated with the Committee, with our appreciation for their service are:

Honorable Anna Eckhart
Fonda Jovick, Esq.
Steve Bezdeka

Individuals shall be appointed to the Committee are:

Honorable Lori Meulenberg
Frances Stern, Esq.

Committee members that shall be re-appointed to the Committee for an additional two-year term are:

Honorable Laurie Fortier
Honorable John Meienhofer
Honorable Scott Axline
Honorable John Lothspeich
Seth Platts, Esq.
Dr. Todd Bennett
Tammie Whyte

After implementing this Order, the membership of the Committee is as follows:

Committee Member	Title	Term Expires
Honorable Diane Walker	Chair: Magistrate Judge, Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2023
Honorable Scott Hansen	Magistrate Judge, Seventh Judicial District	December 31, 2023
Honorable Karin Seubert	Magistrate Judge, Second Judicial District	December 31, 2023
Honorable Lori Meulenberg	Magistrate Judge, First Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Honorable Matthew Schelstrate	Magistrate Judge, Third Judicial District	December 31, 2023
Honorable Laurie Fortier	Magistrate Judge, Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Honorable John Meienhofer	Magistrate Judge, Third Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Honorable Scott Axline	Magistrate Judge, Sixth Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Honorable John B. Lothspeich	Magistrate Judge, Fifth Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Seth Platts, Esq.	Attorney, Fifth Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Dr. Todd Bennett	Psychologist, Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Tammie Whyte	Trial Court Administrator, Seventh Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Frances Stern, Esq.	Attorney, Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Roxanne Printz	Deputy Administrator, IDHW	December 31, 2023
Janet Meserve	FCS District Manager, First Judicial District	December 31, 2023
Vacant	Mental Health Professional	To be filled 2023

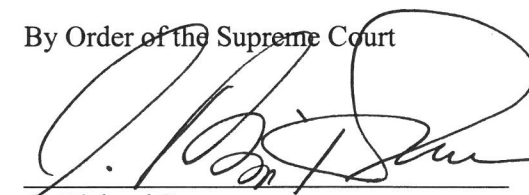
A team of Idaho court administrative experts, as well as Legal Counsel, will provide on-going support and guidance to the Children and Families in the Courts Committee, as needed, in fulfilling its charge.

Jona Lagerstrom, Court Programs and Services Administrator, Family Court Services
Deena Layne, Deputy Legal Counsel

This order shall be effective on the date signed.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2023.

By Order of the Supreme Court


G. Richard Bevan
Chief Justice, Idaho Supreme Court

ATTEST:


Clerk

I, Melanie Gagnepain, Clerk of the Supreme Court/
Court of Appeals of the State of Idaho, do hereby
Certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the
Children and Families in the Courts entered in the above entitled
cause and now on record in my office. WITNESS my
hand and the Seal of this Court February 4, 2023
Melanie Gagnepain, Clerk

By  Deputy